

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02598 081707Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 NSC-05 SS-15 /065 W

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R 081622Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2727

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, PO, ELAB

SUBJ: HOTEL/RESTAURANT WORKERS' WORK STOPPAGES

REF: LISBON 1859 (NOTAL)

1. PROBLEMS OF TOURISM INDUSTRY WERE WORSENERD THIS WEEK
BY SERIES OF WORK STOPPAGES BY COUNTRY'S 120,000 HOTEL AND
RESTAURANT WORKERS.

2. STAGGERED FOUR-HOUR STOPPAGES MONDAY, MAY 5 AND TUESDAY, MAY 6
WERE FOLLOWED BY 24-HOUR STRIKE MAY 7. IF THEIR DEMANDS NOT MET,
WORKERS THREATEN REPETITION OF SAME ACTIONS THIS WEEKEND,
AS WELL AS FURTHER UNSPECIFIED MEASURES.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 02598 081707Z

3. IN PRESS CONFERENCE UNION REPRESENTATIVE SAID FOUR-MONTH FIGHT CULMINATED ON APRIL 28 WITH WORKERS PRESENTING PROPOSED CONTRACT AND SETTING TWO-DAY DEADLINE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. UNION CLAIMED HOTEL/RESTAURANT OWNERS REPRESENTATIVES LEFT MEETING AFTER AGREEING TO HALF OF CLAUSES IN CONTRACT. MINISTRY OF LABOR COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING APPOINTMENT OF STUDY COMMISSION AND CLAIMING WAY IS OPEN TO SOLUTION ALSO CONDEMNED "BEHAVIOR" OF MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

4. UNION REPRESENTATIVE ALSO CLAIMED PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT IS LUXURY HOTELS, WHICH CATER TO A MARKET ALMOST NON-EXISTENT AT MOMENT--U.S. AND EUROPEAN "BOURGEOISIE." HE ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF DOING NOTHING TO "RESTRUCTURE" THESE HOTELS AND FIND NEW MARKETS, AND CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATION OF THOSE HOTELS NOT WILLING TO RECONVERT AND ACCEPT WORKER DEMANDS.

5. STRIKE ADHERENCE IN LISBON HAS BEEN NEARLY UNIVERSAL, WHILE PRESS HAS CLAIMED SAME THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. SERVICE CONTINUED IN FACTORY AND OFFICE CANTEENS, STATE COMPANIES, HOSPITALS, AND FIRMS UNDER WORKER-MANAGEMENT. LATTER INCLUDES RITZ AND EMBASSADOR HOTELS--CURRENTLY UNDER WORKER CONTROL--PLUS REPORTEDLY HOTELS OF ESTORIL-SOL GROUP.

6. FURTHER CRIMP IN TOURISM WAS AVERTED BY LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATION OF THREATENED TAP STRIKE. GOVERNMENT IS APPOINTING YET ANOTHER COMMISSION (JOINT GOVERNMENT/WORKER) TO STUDY COMPANY'S SITUATION. EMBASSY COMMENTING SEPTEL ON SIGNIFICANCE THIS AND OTHER LABOR PROBLEMS.

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